

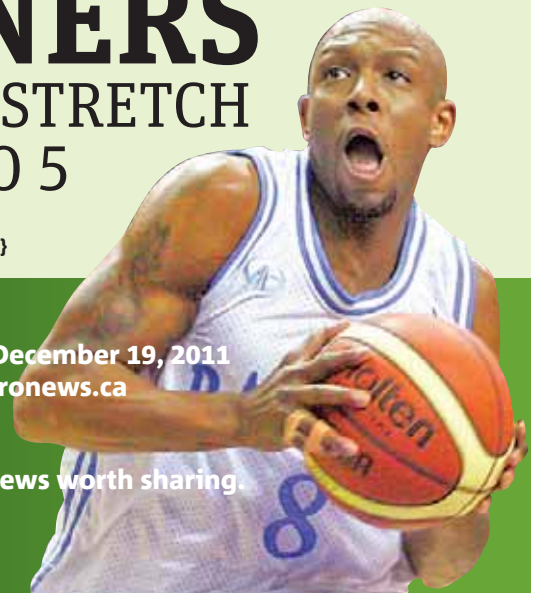


**PETTY CHATTER**  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
TODAY FOR ROCKER'S  
CONCERT {page 4}

**FATAL WEEKEND**  
A DOWNTOWN  
BAR FIGHT TURNS  
DEADLY {page 3}



**WINNERS**  
RAINMEN STRETCH  
STREAK TO 5  
GAMES {page 17}



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Monday, December 19, 2011  
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.

**Dictator. Dead**



► North Korean leader Kim Jong Il waves during a meeting with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung in 2000.

## North Korean leader dies

Kim Jong Il, the strongman who led the communist country since 1994, died Monday local time at the age of 69. See story on page 8.

# Dozens rally against project

► Church, community leaders march to oppose plans to develop Saint Patrick's-Alexandra School land ► Lack of input panned

Halifax regional council hasn't learned its lesson on consulting the community before moving ahead with developments, according to a church leader protesting the sale of the Saint Patrick's-Alexandra School.

Rhonda Britton of the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church led a crowd of more than 100 people in a march to the steps of the school on Maitland Street in north-end Halifax on Sunday afternoon.

"We are profoundly disappointed at the decision council has made to sell the former ... school to a developer," Britton told the crowd.

"We are disappointed that acknowledgement of past wrongs have seemingly not influenced or corrected present behavior."

Council voted 18-4 last Tuesday to award a contract to Jono Developments Inc., who plan to develop a mixed-use residential building on the site of the school. The proposal beat out



► Rhonda Britton, pastor at Cornwallis Street Baptist Church, uses a megaphone to speak to the crowd gathered for a rally at the former Saint Patrick's-Alexandra school on Sunday.

one from non-profit groups.

In an area of the city that has seen more and more condo developments and boutique shops, the move stoked concerns over gentrification and a lack of input from the community on their own future.

Bernard Smith, formerly with the Spring Garden Road Area Business Association, said he understands Britton's

frustration.

"What has been lacking is the lack of community consultation," said Smith, who now works with the North End Business Improvement District.

"Everyone could have come out of this looking good. The city could have sold some of the land, the (community's) needs could have been significantly met in addition." ● ALEX BOUTILIER



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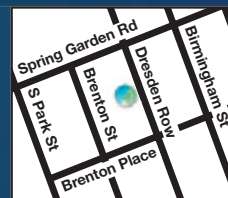


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## Elderly woman killed in her home

Police are working on a motive in the death of an elderly Dartmouth woman.

The woman, who hasn't been identified by police, was discovered in her home on Jackson Road just before 2 p.m. on Friday. Someone had noticed her back door was opened and called police.

Police found the woman, believed to be in her 70s, unresponsive and paramedics pronounced her dead at the scene.

An autopsy was completed on Saturday and police officially ruled her death a homicide.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said on Sunday investigators are looking into a number of possibilities for a motive, including a robbery.

"Obviously the fact the door was open, that's the focus of our forensic identification unit who would have done the scene examination. We'll have to get someone who's familiar with the house to try to tell us if anything is missing," he said.

The victim owned several cats, which were seized by Animal Services.

● JENNIFER TAPLIN

# Man dies following downtown bar fight

- ▶ The latest homicide brings HRM's 2011 murder rate to 17
- ▶ There is no indication that any weapons are involved, police say



JENNIFER TAPLIN  
@METRONEWS.CA

A family is grieving the death of a young man, a week before Christmas.

James Philip Mattatall, 23, of Dartmouth is dead after a bar fight in downtown Halifax early Saturday morning.

Police say there was a fight inside the Toothy Moose Cabaret on Argyle Street just before 3 a.m. The fight continued outside where Mattatall was struck and knocked to the ground by another man.

"The parties were either put out or left the club and it continued on outside," said Const. Brian Palmeter with Halifax Regional Police.

"The victim was assaulted outside but we don't know if he was involved in the incident inside or not."

Mattatall was rushed to hospital but he died later that day at 1:38 p.m.

"Between him being struck and hitting the ground, that's what led to his injuries," Palmeter said. "And unfortunately we have a 23-year-old who went out with his friends and ultimately died as a result of being assaulted."

Police have released an image captured from a surveillance camera of a



▶ James Mattatall, 23, died in hospital on Saturday afternoon after an early-morning fight outside the Toothy Moose bar on Argyle Street.

man who could have information relating to the attack, but who is not necessarily a suspect, Palmeter said.

He is a white man in his 20s, tall with a thick build and short, dark hair. He wore a long chain that hung down to his belly, jeans, a baseball cap with a dark rim, and a light Rockawear sweatshirt.

"We believe that the

pictures are good enough that if people know this individual, they will come forward. And obviously we would encourage this person to come forward and provide information to us because we believe he was in the area and likely would have information as to what happened."

Palmeter said investigators believe the person



▶ Image of man police want to speak with.

who assaulted Mattatall fled on foot in a southerly direction from the Toothy Moose.

# 1

  
news


Canada's transport regulator has ruled airlines must protect passengers who are allergic to cats, and that may mean Fluffy will have to stay home. Scan the code for the story.

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ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Tom Petty

# Petty concert date expected today

► Fans abuzz since tour stop first announced for Halifax on Dec. 9.



PHILIP  
CROUCHER  
@METRONEWS.CA

The date for the Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers show at the Halifax Metro Centre is set to come down on Monday.

Earlier this month, Concert promoter David Carver announced the legendary rockers would be coming to town in one of two Atlantic Canada stops in the spring of 2012, but an exact date wasn't finalized.

That will change Mon-

day, as Petty fans will also learn when tickets will go on sale, and at what cost.

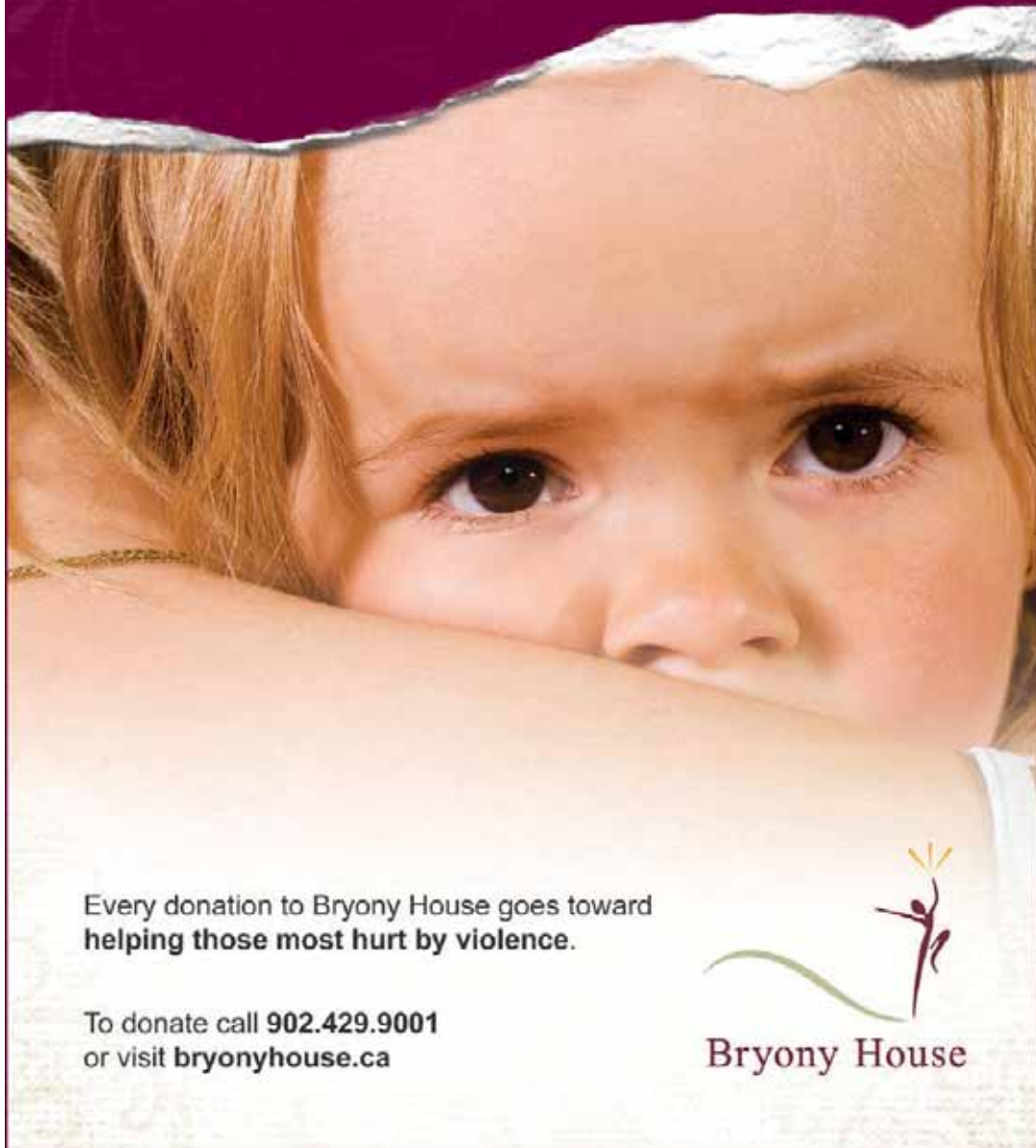
Tickets for Petty at Mile One Stadium in St. John's on June 3 went on sale over the weekend and sold out in minutes. A second show was then added for June 2, with only a few tickets now remaining.

Carver told Metro Sun-

day via e-mail there would be only one show in Halifax, no matter how quickly the show sells out here.

Tickets for the St. John's shows cost \$169.50, \$149.50 and \$79.50, plus taxes and service charges. Carver expected ticket prices for Halifax to be similar to those at Mile One Stadium.

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## No evidence of gun use in car 'shooting'

Halifax police say what was believed to be the shooting of a parked vehicle early Sunday morning turned out to be something different.

Just before 2 a.m., police say they responded to reports of a shooting of an unoccupied parked car in the 3500 block of Windsor Street.

A white car was then seen fleeing the area, police say, and before officers arrived, two others left in the reportedly targeted car, which had its windows smashed out.

The damaged vehicle later returned and when the two men inside saw police, they tried to leave and were stopped on nearby

### Late night case

► Police say the case is now being treated as property damage.

Strawberry Hill.

At first, police say the two men refused to co-operate. But on Sunday afternoon investigators spoke with them again and they confirmed they had seen the incident and the windows were smashed out with a metal pole, not a gun.

Police say its forensic identification unit also examined the vehicle and there was no evidence of a gun being used.

● METRO

### News in brief

#### Principal charged with sexual assault

**1998 INCIDENT.** The principal of a high school has been charged with sexual assault.

The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board confirmed Friday Doug Keyes, principal at Avon View High School in Windsor, has been placed on administrative leave.

RCMP said the charge was laid after an investigation into a complaint they received last month.

RCMP Sgt. Tom Murdock said the complaint stemmed from an alleged assault in 1998.

He said the complain-

ant was a minor at the time. He declined to offer details, citing privacy concerns. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

#### Driver charged in stolen car hit-and-run

**MINOR INJURIES.** A young offender is facing charges after a stolen car flipped on its roof in downtown Halifax and slammed into another vehicle carrying a couple and an infant.

Police say no one was seriously hurt, but the infant and the couple were taken to hospital late Thursday with minor injuries.

The driver of the stolen car fled from the vehicle after the crash. The suspect was arrested after a brief foot chase near North Street.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Monday, December 19

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## Mannequin. Installation



► Artist Scott Saunders takes photos on Sunday of his art installation after adding several more mannequins to the site of the proposed downtown Halifax convention centre on Argyle Street. Saunders began installing the mannequins last Thursday and intends to place around 100 of them on the site.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Artist still making his mark on Argyle

# Historic Cape Breton church burns down

► Third Maritime church fire in recent weeks is not viewed as suspicious

A 129-year-old church was destroyed in a fire Sunday morning on Cape Breton Island.

Fire departments in Cape Breton from Whycomagh, Inverness and Lake Ainslie were all called to the East Lake Ainslie Presbyterian Church at 9 a.m. to battle the blaze.

Const. Brad Anderson with the Inverness RCMP said though there was a lot of smoke coming from the building when he arrived

## Up in flames

### Other recent church fires:

► The Victoria Presbyterian Church in Birch Grove was just months away from its 100th anniversary when it

on the scene at about 9:40 a.m., there were no visible flames.

"However, within about a half hour the flames had made their way through the roof of the church, and

was reduced to rubble on Dec. 10.

► On Dec. 11, the Roman Catholic church on the Kingsclear First Nation reserve near Fredericton was destroyed in another blaze.

in another half hour it was pretty clear the church wasn't going to be saved," Anderson said.

"It was pretty much fully engulfed by that time," Anderson said the

church was built in 1882, but the congregation dates back to 1833. He said it was first built as a log church and then rebuilt in the mid-1880s before being rebuilt once again.

He said the church hall and nearby homes were not damaged.

"Certainly, there are no other buildings at risk at this point," he said.

He said the church was well used by the community. **● ALY THOMSON/WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Operation Red Nose shines bright again

Close to 900 people were given a safe drive home during this year's Operation Red Nose designated driver service.

The service, which wrapped up for another year over the weekend,

was operational for eight nights in December, mostly on Fridays and Saturdays.

Volunteers in teams of three transported 396 vehicles and 885 passengers over 14,000 kilometres, a

release issued Sunday said.

Volunteers also raised more than \$7,500, which is being donated to Safe Grad programs through the Halifax Regional School Board.

● METRO

# 298

The number of volunteers with Operation Red Nose.

# New details in Peacock case

CONTRIBUTED

Halifax police have released new information involving the missing-person case of a Dartmouth woman.

Police now say Melissa Dawn Peacock, 20, was last seen in the Sackville-Beaver Bank area in the late-evening hours of Nov. 7, and they believe she was in a vehicle travelling outbound from the Sackville area on Highway 354 just after midnight on Nov. 8.

Her last known whereabouts is now the area of Gore, also in the early-morning hours of Nov. 8.

Peacock was reported missing on Nov. 9 when family and friends were concerned they couldn't



► Melissa Dawn Peacock

get in contact with her.

Police say there's no evidence of foul play and Peacock was known to take off for periods at a time.

Her family and friends say that she always kept in touch whenever she left and that they haven't heard a word from her since Nov. 7.

● METRO

## NEWPAGE

# 4 bidders in running for mill

The deadline for final offers for the purchase of the NewPage Port

Hawkesbury paper mill passed Friday with four offers being submitted.

Ernst & Young, the court-appointed monitor overseeing the sale of the closed mill, said it will now evaluate the offers along with NewPage and New York investment bank Sanabe & Associates LLC.

Julie Fournier, a spokeswoman for the monitor, said in a release that they expect to choose a successful bidder by Dec. 30, then ask the court to approve a sale on or before Jan. 20.

The identities of the final bidders were not released.

The NewPage mill closed in October, throwing 600 people out of work and affecting 400 others who cut and truck the wood for processing.

Company officials said the mill was losing about \$4 million a month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Bridge tolls rising in new year

The cost of travelling across the Confederation Bridge is going up on Jan. 1.

Transport Canada has approved increases for all round-trip tolls, ranging from 25 cents to \$1.

The cost for all two-axle vehicles will rise to \$44.25, an increase of \$1.

The toll for each additional axle jumps to \$7.25, up 25 cents.

Motorcyclists will pay 50 cents more at \$17.75.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Hotel gets \$1M boost from NDP

A hotel in southwestern Nova Scotia is getting \$1 million from the province to help it stay open after a severe drop in business.

Economic Development Minister Percy Paris says the money for the Rodd Grand Yarmouth Hotel is for upgrades and aimed at protecting 50 jobs.

"We are also making an investment into a facility that we want to lead to sustainability," said Paris on Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



# Man charged in N.Y. burning death

► Senior citizen died after being set on fire in apartment elevator ► Suspect says the woman owed him \$2,000

A man charged with dousing a woman in flammable liquid and tossing a Molotov cocktail on her in an elevator told police he set her on fire because he was angry that she owed him \$2,000, authorities said Sunday.

Jerome Isaac was arrested Sunday on murder and arson charges in the death of 73-year-old Deloris Gillespie.

The 47-year-old Isaac reeked of gasoline when he entered a police station overnight and implicated himself in Gillespie's death, New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said.

Gillespie was ambushed in the elevator of her



Brooklyn apartment building on Saturday afternoon, Browne said.

The suspect had been waiting for her when the elevator doors opened to the fifth floor of her build-

ing in Prospect Heights, police said.

"It was apparent he knew she was on the elevator," Browne said.

After setting Gillespie ablaze, Isaac went to his apartment building just blocks away and set a fire there, Browne said. He then hid on a roof before turning himself in to police, Browne said.

Isaac told police that Gillespie owed him \$2,000 from some work he had done for her, Browne said.

The attack happened shortly after 4 p.m., lasted about a minute and was recorded by two video cameras, including one inside the small elevator.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Russia. Protests



► A masked protester stands with a riot policeman on the right during a rally against alleged vote rigging, this weekend, in St. Petersburg, Russia. The sign reads: "My vote was stolen".

DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Another post-election rally

About 7,000 protesters demanding a rerun of elections gathered Saturday in central St. Petersburg for a second weekend of protests against Russia's alleged fraud-tainted vote, a comparatively small crowd that underlined the challenge to the opposition of keeping up public pressure on authorities.

## British lawmaker fired over Nazi party photo


A British Conservative lawmaker in Britain has been fired as a parliamentary aide for attending a friend's Nazi-themed stag party.

The party said Sunday that Aidan Burley had "behaved in a manner which is offensive and foolish" and had been removed as parliamentary private secretary to the transport minister. The party says Prime Minister David Cameron has ordered an investigation into Burley's behaviour.

Last week a newspaper ran a picture showing Burley with a man dressed in an SS uniform at the party.

Burley said he felt "deep regret" about the event, at which guests toasted the Third Reich.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Walk in X-ray services at all Capital Health hospitals, except Eastern Shore Memorial Hospital, will be closed from noon Dec. 23 through Jan. 2. For hours at Eastern Shore, please call the hospital directly.

If you have urgent blood collection or x-ray needs, please contact your family doctor.

For more information on holiday hours, please visit [www.cdha.nshealth.ca](http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca) and click the 'Holiday Hours' banner.

Capital Health reminds you to think about your health needs before the holidays:

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# North Korea leader dead at 69

► Few facts are known about the highly secretive Kim Jong Il

Kim Jong Il, North Korea's mercurial and enigmatic longtime leader, has died of heart failure. He was 69.

In a special broadcast Monday from the North Korean capital, state media said Kim died of a heart ailment on a train due to a "great mental and physical strain" on Dec. 17 during a "high intensity field inspection." It said an autopsy was done on Dec. 18 and fully confirmed the diagnosis.

Kim is believed to have suffered a stroke in 2008, but he had appeared relatively vigorous in photos and video from recent trips to China and Russia and in numerous trips around the country carefully documented by state media. The communist country's Dear Leader — reputed to have had a taste for cigars, cognac and gourmet cuisine — was believed to have had diabetes and heart disease.

"It is the biggest loss for the party ... and it is our people and nation's biggest sadness," an anchorwoman clad in black Korean traditional dress said in a voice

## The life of Kim

► North Korean legend has it that Kim was born on Mount Paekdu, one of Korea's most cherished sites, in 1942, a birth heralded in the heavens by a pair of rainbows and a brilliant new star. Soviet records, however, indicate he was born in Siberia, in 1941.

► Kim Jong Il, a graduate of Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung University, was 33 when his father anointed him his eventual successor.

► Kim Jong Il took over after his father died in 1994, eventually taking the posts of chairman of the National Defence Commission, commander of the Korean People's Army and head of the ruling Worker's Party father remained as North Korea's "eternal president."

choked with tears.

She said the nation must "change our sadness to strength and overcome our difficulties."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun inspect an honour guard together on October 2, 2007, in Pyongyang. The two leaders held an unsuccessful three-day summit aimed at ending the half-century of animosity between the two states, who have remained technically at war since 1950.

## Death toll unknown after oil platform capsizes

An oil-drilling platform capsized and later sank amid fierce storms off Russia's east coast Sunday, plunging dozens of workers into the churning, icy waters. Four were confirmed dead and 49 were missing.

The Transportation Ministry said the Kolskaya platform started sinking after a strong wave broke some of its equipment and the port-holes in the crew's dining room. One five-metre wave

washed away the platform's lifeboats, leaving the crew with no escape.

The Emergencies Ministry said in a statement Sunday 67 people had been aboard the platform as it was being towed about 200 kilometres off the coast of Sakhalin Island.

Fourteen people were rescued from the sea by the ship that had been towing the platform.

Further rescue efforts were being hampered by



► In this undated handout photo, the oil drilling platform Kolskaya is seen in the Sea of Okhotsk.

the severe weather conditions, officials said.

A spokeswoman for the Emergency Ministry in the Far East, told the Associated Press that the rescue team had spotted four lifeless bodies in the water, but had not yet been able to retrieve them.

The Kolskaya was built in Finland in 1985 and is owned by Russian offshore exploration firm Arktik-morneftegazrazvedka.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Oil platform

► There were no immediate reports of environmental damage, and that would be unlikely since the platform was not drilling for oil when it capsized and carried little fuel.

► The Investigative Committee Sunday opened a probe into the accident and said that a breach of safety regulations or weather may be to blame.

## Rescuers search for ship survivors

Rescuers battled high waves on Sunday as they searched for 200 asylum seekers missing and feared dead after their overcrowded ship

sank off Indonesia's main island of Java. So far only 33 people have been plucked alive from the choppy waters.

Two were children, aged 8 and 10, found clinging to the broken debris of the boat five hours after the accident Saturday.

"It's really a miracle they made it," said Kelik Enggar Purwanto, a member of the rescue team, as horrifying accounts emerged of the disaster. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Former Czech leader dies

Czech leaders and foreign politicians are paying tribute to Vaclav Havel, the dissident playwright who led

the 1989 Velvet Revolution that peacefully toppled communism in the former Czechoslovakia. Havel died Sunday at age 75 in his weekend house in northern Czech Republic. The Czech government meets today to declare a period of official mourning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Vaclav Havel



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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
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| SAVE \$499.95<br>no data required |                           |



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|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 3-yr. term                                       | No term                   |
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| SAVE \$349.95<br>with a \$50 voice and data plan |                           |



Samsung Galaxy S51™  
smartphone

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3-yr. term                        | No term                   |
| <b>\$0<sup>2</sup></b>            | <b>\$199<sup>95</sup></b> |
| SAVE \$199.95<br>no data required |                           |



LG Optimus Net  
smartphone

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3-yr. term                        | No term                   |
| <b>\$0<sup>2</sup></b>            | <b>\$199<sup>95</sup></b> |
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# COMMUNITY UNDER SIEGE

## URBAN COMPASS

STEPHEN KIMBER  
METRO HALIFAX



Rev. Rhonda Britten may have been guilty of hyperbole when she compared last week's city council decision to sell the former St. Patrick's-Alexandra School to a local developer to "the rape ... of a community.... Africville all over again!"

But she is not entirely canary-in-the-coal-mine wrong.

In 2009, Halifax Regional School Board — over the ongoing objections of the north-end community — decided to shutter St. Pat's-Alexandra after the 2010-11 school year.

That suddenly freed up a tantalizing 3.85-acre chunk of valuable, edge-of-downtown real estate in a rapidly gentrifying poor neighbourhood.

Last summer, the city issued a call for proposals. Six groups — three for-profit and three non-profit — responded. After evaluating them, staff last week recommended a private developer's proposal to tear down the school and replace it with a mixed residential/affordable housing/community space development.

But Britten, who is the well-connected pastor of Cornwallis Street Baptist Church, says she didn't even learn about the call for proposals until 12 days before the deadline.

That's interesting. Municipal policies call for residents to be consulted before the city invites proposals if surplus schools might have community uses.

Britten's group did quickly manage to cobble together a plan to transform the former school into spaces for community. But staff scored that pitch — along with the two other non-profit community-based proposals — at the bottom of its evaluation sheet.

No wonder. "Community interest" wasn't one of the criteria considered.

Close to 50 per cent of the final score, in fact, was made up of the bidder's financial capability and financial offer. Not easy hills for cash-strapped community groups to climb.

To add insult to injury, councillors — who routinely debate cat bylaws more times than Fluffy has lives, and who just put off a decision on a municipal stadium again — refused Coun. Dawn Sloane's motion to defer a final decision on the school sale for a month because of alleged flaws in the process.

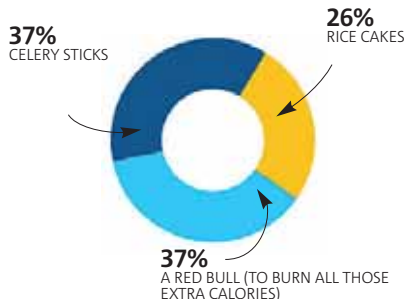
St. Pat's-Alexandra isn't, by itself, the new Africville. But the community is clearly under siege.

Pushing out the poor in the interests of progress. Where have we heard that before?



Register at  
[metropolitanpanel.ca](http://metropolitanpanel.ca)  
and take the quick poll

Since Santa obviously needs to lose a few pounds, what health-conscious snack should you leave him to eat?



### Local tweets



► **@Tygerlytly:** I see another bar fight in #Halifax resulted in another death. This city is just so unsafe. Can't wait. 2 more years and I'm out.

► **@AngelaMorrissey:** @TomAskForMore @mayor-peterkelly 2012 will be the year I use my vote to ask for more. Halifax needs leadership, not dictatorship.

► **@tugmyjersey:** Loving my afternoon at @uncommon-hfx looking for employment. Oh Halifax, I should be freaking out, but coffee and snow flurries are better.

► **@CBtransplant:** the best thing about living around the corner from smith's bakery is living around the corner from smith's bakery. #halifax

► **@ThreeDayPass:** Saw #Halifax contractors spreading salt on dry, bare sidewalks. Seems a great use of the snow clearing budget.

► **@evilpez4:** Line up to enter Dollar Store now at 30. It's like they're selling Prince tix. If Prince was a \$2 bag of Xmas candies from Korea. #Halifax

► **@PacifcoClub:** After exams party. Monday night! Who says you can't party on a Monday! #nomorebooks #christmasbreak #halifax

### Daily Zoom

# 'You're not any cuter!'



### Cat must learn how to behave

**AUSTRALIA.** Don't tell this cheeky cat it's rude to stare and stick out its tongue: poor Buzz is hearing-impaired. At cat obedience class at Prahran Vet Hospital in Melbourne, this 10-week-old kitten has to learn hand commands to know how to behave better. By the looks of it, he's still got his work cut out for him. ● **METRO WORLD NEWS**

**"He's been dumped and is going to be harder to re-home, so I've had to teach him to pay attention to me. Already he can high-10 with both paws over his head."**

**DR. NICOLE HOSKIN, VETERINARIAN**

### 'Give me a treat, then I'll obey'

**TRAINING.** Felines can be taught to do many of the same things that dogs can: sit, stand and fetch things. The two species have to be trained in different ways, though. Dogs learn just to please their owners, but cats only pay attention for food rewards. "I find roast-chicken rewards work the best," Dr. Nicole Hoskin says. ● **METRO WORLD NEWS**

### All bets off with 'psychic' feline

**CATS IN NEWS.** Buzz is not the only domesticated cat to make world headlines in recent days. One Italian feline by the moniker of FastidiousCat has been trending as the new Paul the Octopus after successfully predicting Serie A soccer powerhouse Udinese's last four fixtures.

● **METRO WORLD NEWS**

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# CNN star to testify at UK inquiry

## ► Piers Morgan's autobiography made it clear he knew about phone hacking as far back as 2001

The often colorful and sometimes controversial story of CNN star Piers Morgan's rise to the top will be revisited today when the former editor appears by videolink at a judge-led inquiry into the ethics and practices of Britain's scandal-tarred press.

His appearance has been widely anticipated — not least because of the 46-year-old's irreverent flippancy.

"So heartwarming that everyone in the U.K. is missing me so much they want me to come home," he joked earlier this year amid demands he return to give evidence to the inquiry, set up by Prime Minister David Cameron following the disclosure that the now-defunct News of the World tabloid had for years illegally eavesdropped on the voice mail messages of public figures.

Actors Hugh Grant and Sienna Miller, and Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling are among those who have given evidence about press abuse, while executives and lawyers for Murdoch's News Corp. have defended the newspaper.

Morgan shot to national prominence when he was picked by Murdoch to run the News of the World at age 28.

Under his tenure, the tabloid exposed actor Hugh Grant's liaison with Hollywood prostitute Divine



► Piers Morgan in Los Angeles last July.

Brown and Princess Diana's late-night phone calls to married art dealer Oliver Hoare.

It wasn't all down to good reporting: Morgan has acknowledged he kept his edge in part through bribes paid to informants on rival titles.

In 1995, Morgan left the *News of the World* for the *Daily Mirror*. His time there was marked by scoops and controversy, but his editorship ended in 2004 when he ran a faked photograph purporting to show a British soldier urinating on an Iraqi detainee.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## EUROZONE CRISIS

## ECB exec explains exit

A top European Central Bank official has publicly discussed the reasons for his surprise resignation, saying he is not satisfied with the direction Europe's currency union has taken.

Juergen Stark said in an interview in Monday's edition of Germany's

Wirtschaftswoche magazine that the ECB had done its job by keeping inflation under control across the eurozone, which it does through adjusting interest rates.

But he said some governments had tolerated excessive wage costs and unsustainable real estate booms that preceded today's debt crisis.

Stark is leaving at the end of the year, two and a half years before the end of his eight-year term on the bank's six-member executive board. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Market moment

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**(+ 20.70 US)**

## Pilot strike cancels Iberia flights

Spanish airline Iberia cancelled a third of its flights Sunday because of a strike by pilots fearing job losses when company planes are diverted for use by Iberia's planned new budget carrier.

Iberia said it scrapped 91 flights, mostly domestic routes, but the airline managed to find alternative seats for about 80 per cent of the travellers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# 2

## scene

### Box office



Sherlock Holmes is facing his worst enemy: declining crowds at the box office. Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows debuted on top with a \$40 million weekend. Overall business was down again. Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked opened at No. 2 with \$23.5 million, about half the business the first two Chipmunks movies did on their debut weekends.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Beach Boys announce a reunion tour, with Brian Wilson, to mark 50th anniversary



► War Horse is the story of a horse named Joey, raised by a farm boy played by actor Jeremy Irvine.

# Through a horse's eyes

► War Horse recounts the experience of the First World War through the journey of a thoroughbred ► Emotional drama explores the themes of loyalty and survival



STEVE GOW

SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Whether we're talking about the popular stage play or the book upon which it was based, when it comes to awards, War Horse has always been a front-runner. That is something Steven Spielberg may be counting on with his latest movie adaptation.

"Yes, it was a children's story to start but it has, at its heart, great pain and suffering," admitted the book's author Michael Murpurgo. "And that's not necessarily a very attractive prospect for a family show but (Spielberg's) pulled it off unbelievably."

The acclaimed film (which hits theatres Christmas Day) is definitely the stuff of award season. An emotional drama surveying

the First World War through the eyes of an incredible thoroughbred, War Horse deals in themes of loyalty and survival during a war of attrition that star Emily Watson suggests makes one of Spielberg's most inspired films.

"The great achievement of the film is the perspective it puts on that war," said Watson. "Steven's other films have been about the Second World War,

which has a very clear, moral imperative to it. But this war was utterly pointless and taking a horse through the journey of that war is a brilliant way of cutting a cross-section of it and seeing it first-hand and it's really powerful."

Almost as powerful as the story were the actual horses that played the title role. As honoured as he was to star in the Spielberg film, actor Tom Hiddleston

insisted he was only upstaged by his animal co-stars.

"I was shamed at my artifice by their authenticity," said the Thor actor.

"That's really the thing I learned — just to turn up and be there because the horse will do something surprising, which will give you so much more than anything you might have preconceived in your own mind."



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# The story behind Britney's engagement

► Couple celebrates happy news with closest paparazzi and publicists

## THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON  
SCENE@METRONWS.CA



Thanks to giving up the reigns to her life to a court-appointed conservatorship (her father and a lawyer) and, well, I'm just guessing here, some big pharma mood-stabilizers, I believe Britney Spears is in a much happier and healthier head space than she's ever been.

It actually "seems" like things are back to normal for the star/robot. Which is why it's surprising to see her engagement to boyfriend and former agent Jason Trawick come across as the most orchestrated news item since Kim Kardashian's wedding.

After all, "normal" mega-watt celebrities keep things like this private; only the ones with something to prove try to force it

down our throats.

On Thursday, the two got engaged. And then they celebrated that engagement — and Trawick's 40th birthday — in Las Vegas on Friday night. And, wouldn't you know it? An army of photographers and publicists were at the ready.

They followed them through each perfectly-crafted event — from the two of them checking in to Planet Hollywood, then having dinner at Sugar Factory American Brasserie, to dancing at the Chateau nightclub (notice all of that product placement? I'm sure they all paid a pretty penny for this). The whole night was completely packaged for our enjoyment.

Sure, out of everything that Spears has been through, a formulated engagement is nothing.

It's just kind of sad that this living doll can't be a real person who celebrates real milestones authentically.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



► Jason Trawick and Britney Spears



► Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart

## J.Lo brings her boy toy to work

Jennifer Lopez and her new boyfriend, dancer Casper Smart, have been pretty much inseparable since word of their relationship leaked.

First there was Thanksgiving in Mexico and a trip to Morocco, and now Lopez is even taking Smart to work.

According to Hollyscoop, Smart has been paying Lopez visits on the set of American Idol while she and fellow

judges Randy Jackson and Steven Tyler hold auditions in Pasadena, Calif.

And a source says Lopez has even given Smart permission to drive her Bentley, which can't be sitting well with Lopez's ex, Marc Anthony, who reportedly doesn't want Smart driving his kids around since he was previously arrested on drag racing charges.

● METRO

### Celebrity tweets



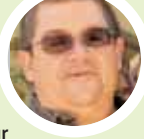
Just got back from mall. Told Santa

what I wanted. He said he didn't even know what SAG was, let alone how to punish it.

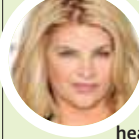


@AlbertBrooks

Anyone who sees #Young Adult, please Tweet your home address. I will personally bring a casserole to you.



@pattonoswalt



@kirstiealley

"His words are bonds, his oaths are oracles, his heart as far from fraud, as heaven from earth" Shakespeare ....does this man exist??"



@JonahHill

"True Life: I Have A Hot Mom" is easily my favorite True Life.

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**Top 5: December 16<sup>th</sup>**

- 5 Danny Fernandes Hit Me Up
- 4 Katy Perry The One That Got Away
- 3 Drake Headlines
- 2 Rihanna We Found Love
- 1 Britney Spears Criminal

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# 3 life

## Lead warning



Health Canada is offering a reminder to shoppers who see children's jewelry on a wish list this holiday season.

It notes that high levels of lead and cadmium can be found in children's jewelry products and kids can ingest harmful amounts of the metals if they chew, suck or swallow the items. There's minimal lead absorption through the skin, so wearing the jewelry doesn't present a serious risk to health.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Holiday festivities can cause sensory overload for people with dementia.

# A crafty Christmas

- ▶ You don't have to take your kids to see Santa to get them into the Christmas spirit
- ▶ Include them in the preparations and let them get involved by helping create decorations for the house and making their own gifts and wrapping
- ▶ It's fun, cheap and creative



**EMMA E. FORREST**  
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA  
METRO WORLD NEWS

There are loads of good

reasons for doing Christmas crafting: It's easy and cheap to make gifts and decorations from things you already have in the house, it's something fun

to do when the weather's bad, and it keeps them out of the shops where they'd only nag you for the latest Harry Potter Lego set.

Christmas crafting is

not just a practical way of whiling away cold winter afternoons, though. It offers a nice excuse for parents to spend quality time playing with their kids and

creating festive rituals that bond the family together for years to come, from decorating the tree as a family to baking biscuits for grandma.

## Preparation:

**1** Ask an adult to help you put the butter, sugar and cream in a saucepan over a low heat. Leave until it comes to the boil and the sugar has melted.

**2** Break the chocolate into small pieces and tip into a heatproof bowl. Carefully pour the melted butter mixture over the chocolate and stir until the chocolate is melted, smooth and shiny. Leave to cool, then cover with clingfilm and chill in the fridge until it's firm.

**3** Making one truffle at a time, scoop a teaspoonful of the chocolate mixture and roll quickly between your hands into a ball. Place on a baking tray lined with baking parchment.

## Make festive gifts. Chocolate truffles



▶ From Christmas Cooking with Kids by Annie Rigg (Ryland, Peters and Small).

makes about 20

## Ingredients:

- 50g unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 75g light brown soft sugar
- 150ml double cream
- 175g dark chocolate

## Toppings:

- 150g milk or dark chocolate, chopped
- Chocolate sprinkles
- Cocoa powder
- Edible silver balls
- Chopped nuts (hazelnuts or flaked almonds)

time into it to coat completely.

**4** For the toppings, ask an adult to help you put the chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water or in the microwave on a low setting. Stir very carefully

until it has melted. Leave to cool slightly.

**5** Sprinkle each of your chosen toppings (cocoa powder, chopped chocolate, sprinkles, edible silver

balls, chopped nuts) onto a separate plate.

**6** Scoop a teaspoonful of the melted chocolate into the palm of your hand and roll one truffle at a

**7** Roll in one of the toppings. Repeat with the remaining truffles and leave to set on the baking tray before serving or packing in a pretty box.

## Create cards & wrapping paper. Potato printing

## Preparation:

**1** Cut potato in half. Place cookie cutter on cutting board with sharp edge facing upwards. Press potato firmly down onto cutter, leaving cutter standing proud of cut

surface of potato by about 5mm.

**2** Ask an adult to cut away edges of potato using sharp knife. Press potato down onto a dry cloth to remove excess moisture.

**3** Pour paint into saucer and use end of sponge paint roller to apply paint to star shape. Too much paint will make the design bleed. If you have applied too much, gently blot potato on kitchen paper to remove excess.

**4** Begin printing. To ensure design prints clearly, use gentle rocking motion, moving potato from side to side without lifting from paper. This will apply paint evenly. Continue to print at evenly-spaced intervals. Allow paint to dry completely.

## Ingredients:

- Medium-sized potato
- Star-shaped cookie cutter
- Chopping board
- Sharp knife (used by adult)
- Dry cloth
- Paints
- Plain white paper

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# Pockets of festive goodness

► These Turkey Pocket Pies are a delicious way to truly get your appetizers looking like they belong in a Christmas season table spread



**Turkey Pocket Pies**

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO

► This recipe makes six servings and the pies can easily be decorated to make them festive.

If the dough of the pocket pies gets too warm during preparation, refrigerate it for 15 minutes.

Use leftover dough to cut out shapes to decorate the top of the pies. Brush the back of the dough shapes with egg wash to affix and bake as directed.

## Preparation:

**1** Preheat oven to 200 C (400 F). Remove pie shells from freezer and let thaw at room temperature for 10 minutes.

**2** Put pie shells onto clean, flat, floured work surface. If cracks appear

in pastry, press and repair using moistened fingers. Cut out 6 shapes from each pie shell using a 7-by-10-cm (2 3/4-by-4-inch) cookie cutter. Set any leftover dough aside.

**3** In bowl, combine turkey, cranberry sauce, cheese

## Ingredients:

- 2 frozen deep-dish pie shells
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) finely chopped leftover turkey
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) cranberry sauce
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) grated cheddar cheese
- Pepper, to taste
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) milk

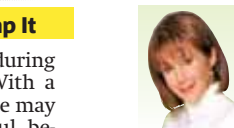
and pepper. Divide mix evenly among 6 cut-outs, mounding in centre and leaving a 5-mm (1/4-inch) border and top with remaining cut-outs. Gently press edges together and crimp with a fork. Brush tops lightly with milk and bake for 12 mins. or until pastry is golden. Let pies rest for 10 minutes before serving. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ TENDERFLAKE**

## Rose Reisman's Swap It

Veggie dips are a standard during the holiday party season. With a wide variety of flavours, some may seem healthy but be careful because names can be deceiving.

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## QUEEN OF GREEN

LINDSAY COULTER  
GREEN@METRONews.ca



Dispose might as well be a four-letter word.

I know you really mean recycle. And re-

# POWERING SOME CHANGE IN BATTERY USE

Where in Winnipeg can I dispose of batteries? Cynthia of Winnipeg

cycling batteries has never been easier. Two excellent battery recycling know-it-all websites are Call2Recycle.ca and Earth911.com. Just enter your postal code into their online drop-off locator. You'll get a list of lo-

cations near you, ranked by proximity, with complete contact information and a map.

There's also no charge to recycle batteries from things like your remote control, cordless power

tools, or calculator.

Next, switch to rechargeable batteries. Maximize their use by reading the instructions. It sounds obvious, but each product has specific guidelines when it comes to charging a battery

for the first time. A big no-no is returning a fully charged battery to the charger for an extra boost. This will only shorten its lifespan. Also never leave batteries in your charger if they're not actually charg-

ing.

Don't forget to recycle your rechargeable batteries when they're done.

And keep your eyes open for battery recycling drop-off boxes. The last one I saw was in my pharmacy.

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# Building from the ground up

► A holiday season spent in jail led to a true turning point for this now successful construction foreman

## TURNING POINT

TERESA KRUIZE  
LIFE@METRONews.CA

Four years ago, Tony Kokol sat in a Federal Pen-

itentiary having Christmas dinner with his Mom and Dad.

A life of recreational

drug use had spun into addiction and some bad life choices put him behind bars.

"It got to the point where I lost everything; my career, health, credit and relationship. I realized, 'Oh my God, I've hit bottom.'"

Fresh Start Recovery Centre in Calgary proved to be a turning point in Tony's life.

He cleaned up, got into the construction business and worked his way up to foreman on Fresh Start's new facility.

Now with the new building on the verge of being completed, Tony is training to become an addictions counsellor.

"My life is full and great. I'm blessed to be surrounded by people who have my back."

Every time I walk through our new building

**"It got to the point where I lost everything; my career, my health, credit and relationship. I realized, 'Oh my God, I've hit bottom.'"**

TONY KOKOL, FOREMAN AND SOON-TO-BE ADDICTIONS COUNSELLOR

it validates the journey that I'm on."

Tony recently went out for lunch with his Mom. As she reached out to hug her son he realized how far he had come since that Christmas in jail four years ago.

"I put a smile on my mother's heart."



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► Tony Kokol is currently working on constructing the Fresh Start Recovery Centre building in Calgary.

## Recovery toolbox - Finding help near you

- Fresh Start Recovery Centre  
**403 387-6266**
- Narcotics Anonymous - **na.org**
- Living Clean  
Sunday nights at 11:30p.m. CTS-TV Bell ExpressVu 651 Shaw Direct 351
- Turning Point Detox Centre  
**1 877 523-8369**
- Alcoholics Anonymous - **aa.org**

# Brown delivers for Rainmen

► Would-be blowout turns into last-second Halifax victory ► Winning streak reaches five games



**MATTHEW WUEST**  
@METRONEWS.CA

Talieik Brown has a reputation as a winner, and he backed it up in a big way on Sunday.

The six-foot-one Halifax Rainmen point guard, a former NCAA Division I champion with the Connecticut Huskies, scored five points in the final 10.5 seconds to lift his team to a 109-108 win over the Oshawa Power before a crowd of 3,219 at the Metro Centre.

With the game on the line, Brown went coast-to-coast on unstoppable drives to the rim with 10.5 and 3.1 seconds left. After being fouled on the game-tying basket, he calmly drained the winning free throw.

"I just had to put the team on my back and be a true leader out there," said Brown, who had 18 points overall, including a pivotal pull-up jumper with 58.4 seconds left.

"That's what I do, I love to win championships and I love being in (pressure) environments. That's what I'm here for."

It was remarkable the Rainmen were even in a last-minute situation after leading by as much as 21 in

## Hectic holiday

The Rainmen will be busier than ever leading up to Christmas Day.

Far from a holiday break, the Rainmen head on the road for games on Dec. 23 against the Quebec Kebs and Dec. 24 against the Oshawa Power.

the third quarter and taking a healthy 12-point lead into the fourth.

But the scrappy Power battled back with a 36-point final quarter and made the Rainmen work for their fifth straight win and eighth in the past 10 games.

"We kind of got comfortable and let them come back," said Rainmen small forward Lawrence Wright, who drained three three-pointers among his team-high 23 points.

"Talieik was great for us at the end. He never gives up and he's the heart of our team."

Tyrone Levett scored 21 points and added eight rebounds while Eddie Robinson chipped in with 11.

This is the second best stretch of wins in the Rainmen's five-year history.



► Oshawa Power forward Omari Johnson blocks a shot from the Halifax Rainmen's Lawrence Wright during the first half of Sunday's National Basketball League of Canada game at the Metro Centre. The Rainmen squeaked past the Power 109-108.

They won nine of 10 at the start of the 2010 season. With an 8-4 record, they're third in the seven-team Na-

tional Basketball League of Canada.

"We're on a roll now," Brown said. "We've just got

to keep doing what we're doing, stay humble, go out there and keep playing hard."

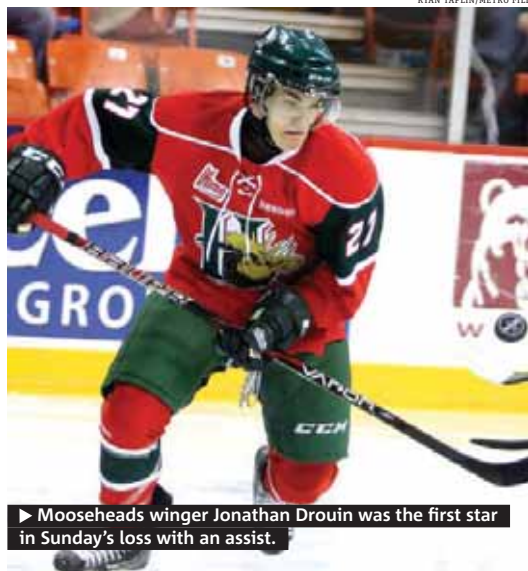
# 4

  
sports

## More sports

**NATHAN MACKINNON** WILL BE ONE OF FOUR HALIFAX MOOSEHEADS COMPETING AT THE WORLD UNDER-17 CHALLENGE IN WINDSOR, ONT., STARTING DEC. 29. THE 16-YEAR-OLD ROOKIE CENTRE WILL BE "100 PER CENT" RECOVERED FROM A SHOULDER INJURY FOR THE START OF THE EVENT, ACCORDING TO MOOSEHEADS HEAD COACH DOMINIQUE DUCHARME. WINGER RYAN FALKENHAM WILL JOIN HIM ON TEAM ATLANTIC, WHILE GOALIE ZACH FUCALE AND WINGER JONATHAN DROUIN WILL PLAY FOR TEAM QUEBEC. ALL FOUR WILL BE UNAVAILABLE TO THE MOOSEHEADS UNTIL JAN. 6.

# Moose lose heading into holiday break



► Mooseheads winger Jonathan Drouin was the first star in Sunday's loss with an assist.

The holiday break couldn't have arrived soon enough for the weary Halifax Mooseheads.

The Mooseheads stumbled into the QMJHL's eight-day holiday break on Sunday, wrapping up a brutal stretch of seven games in 10 days with a 4-1 loss to the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles in Sydney.

Missing leading scorer Nathan MacKinnon to a shoulder injury for the fifth time in six games, the Mooseheads mustered just nine shots in the final two periods as the Screaming Eagles snapped a 1-1 tie with three unanswered goals.

"It wasn't an easy (10-day) stretch but at the same time, we were off (Satur-

## Best at the break

The Quebec Remparts lead the QMJHL at the holiday break with a 28-6-3 record, two points ahead of the second-place Saint John Sea Dogs with two games in hand.

day), we needed to have 20 guys going and we only had a few guys going," said Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme. "We won't win if we don't have every guy going."

Although Matthew Boudreau scored Halifax's lone goal early in the second period, the Screaming Eagles dominated the middle frame with a 17-2 edge in shots.

Sebastien Payette, at 7:40, and Jonathan Brunelle, at 17:17, put the Screaming Eagles up 3-1 in the second and David Rose added an empty-netter with 96 seconds left in the third.

"In the second period, they really outplayed us, they were hungrier than us, they won more battles, and that's where they won the game," Ducharme said.

Mooseheads winger Jonathan Drouin was the first star with an assist and goalie Zach Fucale took third-star honours with 30 saves.

The nationally-10th-ranked Mooseheads have lost four of their past seven games and are fifth in the league with a 22-11-3 record. ● MATTHEW WUEST

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# Raptors fall short against Celtics

► Bargnani has 16 points to top Toronto in pre-season opener ► New coach impressed with squad's 'toughness'

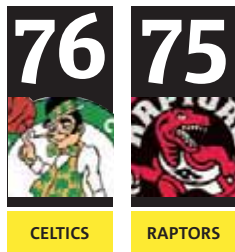
There's only one more pre-season game left for the Toronto Raptors to practise the last-second comeback.

DeMar DeRozan and Andrea Bargnani each missed shots in the dying seconds, and the Boston Celtics held on to win Sunday's exhibition game 76-75.

The Celtics led by as many as 14 points in the fourth quarter, but Toronto's first exhibition game was still considered a success by new head coach Dwane Casey.

"I liked our effort, I liked our toughness," Casey said. "We needed a couple more at the end. Overall I was pleased with the effort."

The emphasis has been on defence as the team pre-



pared for a season shortened by a long labour dispute, but offence remains a work in progress.

The Raptors missed some open shots and hit slightly better than 38 per cent from the floor. Toronto also committed 21 turnovers that led to 26 points.

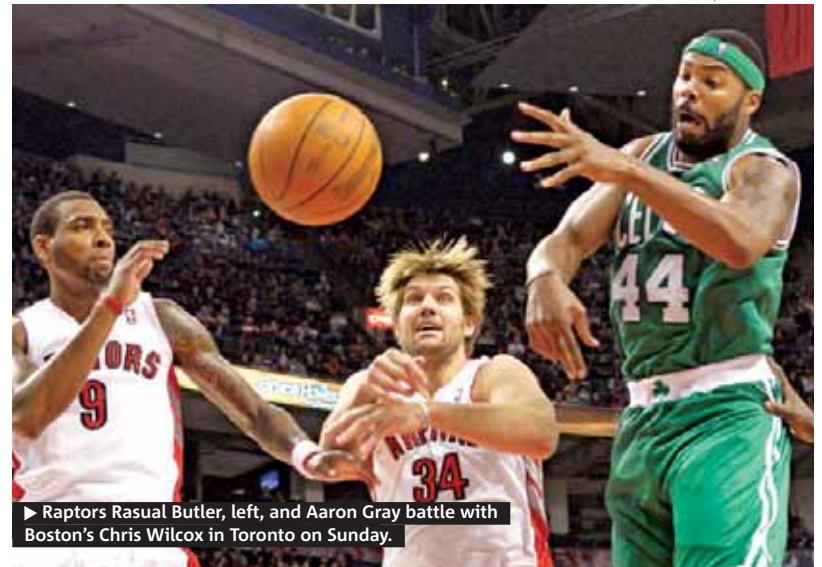
"I thought our defence was fantastic," Casey said. "We have what we call multiple stops and we did a lot of those. We try to get seven per game and we reached our goal with that."

"Offensively, I said yesterday we may throw it in the stands and we did 21 times."

The lack of offensive polish showed on the final possession of the game. It did not go quite the way it was drawn up.

"That play we were trying to run, a couple of guys didn't get to their correct spots," Casey said. "Again now we can find out who can be in at the end of games."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Raptors Rasual Butler, left, and Aaron Gray battle with Boston's Chris Wilcox in Toronto on Sunday.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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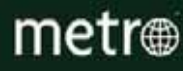
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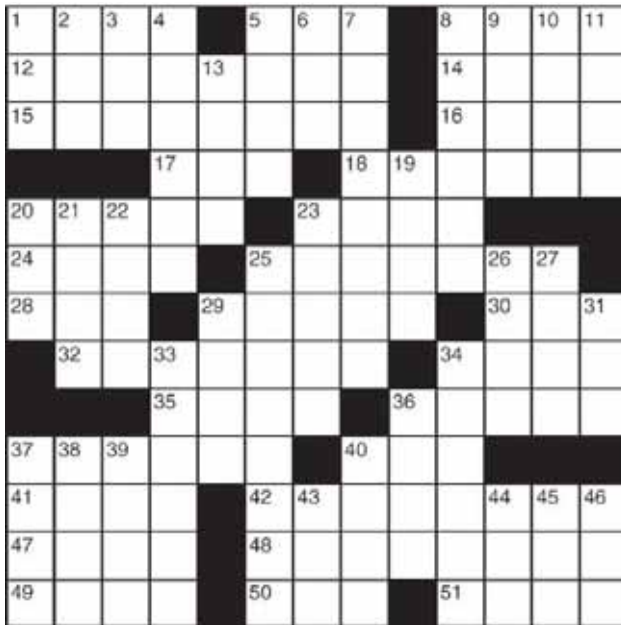
## Crossword

### Across

- 1 Bakery buys  
5 Youngster  
8 Treaty  
12 Australian city  
14 Reverberate  
15 Like spreadsheets, e.g.  
16 Slender  
17 Scepter  
18 Each  
20 Hybrid eating utensil  
23 Entanglement  
24 Bohemian  
25 Refrigerator decorations  
28 Humour  
29 Gave a darn  
30 Regret  
32 Grieved  
34 Intentions  
35 Primary  
36 Sag  
37 "— & Louise"  
40 To and —  
41 Emanation  
42 Ivy League university  
47 List of options  
48 Catholic prayer  
49 "Hey, you!"  
50 Remiss  
51 Je ne — quoi

### Down

- 1 Atl. counterpart  
2 Altar affirmative  
3 Conger or moray  
4 Wet cement mixture  
5 Sort  
6 Mrs. McKinley  
7 Mad  
8 Small  
9 Liniment target  
10 Stylish  
11 Color quality  
13 Beyond control  
19 Frogs' hangout  
20 Witnessed  
21 Proper partner?  
22 "Beetle Bailey" dog  
23 Carpenter or Black  
25 Crazy  
26 Threesome  
27 Japanese wrestling  
29 Study all night  
31 Kreskin's claim



- 33 Diacritical mark  
34 Scents  
36 Snare or tom-tom  
37 Pack down tightly  
38 Shades  
39 Sea eagles  
40 Show off your muscles  
43 Eggs  
44 Lingerie item  
45 Midafternoon, on a sundial  
46 Some small batteries

### ► Friday's answer



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

## Today's horoscope

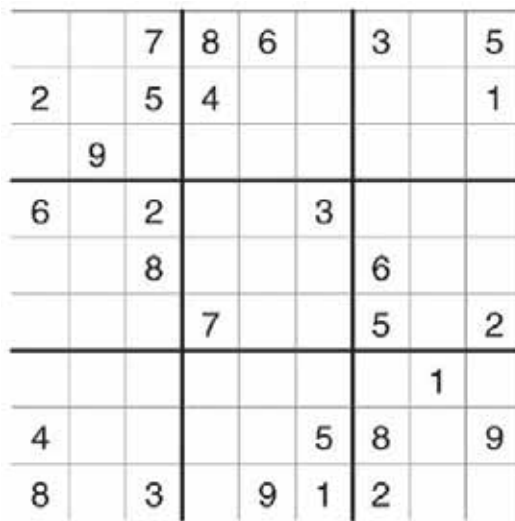
**♈ Aries** March 21-April 20 Misunderstandings could be expensive, so make sure those you work and do business with know what you are up to today.  
**♉ Taurus** April 21-May 21 Take life at a more measured pace over the next 24 hours.  
**♊ Gemini** May 22-June 21 Opportunities to prosper are all around, but you must be selective.  
**♋ Cancer** June 22-July 22 You seem to be a bit touchy at the moment, and that's bad news for anyone who gets on your wrong side.  
**♌ Leo** July 23-Aug. 23 You can sense that something big is about to happen but you can't work out what it might be. Relax.

**♍ Virgo** Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Why are you trying so hard to convince people that your ideas are best?  
**♎ Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 What seems like a setback today will turn out to be a blessing in disguise before the end of the year, so don't waste time worrying about it.  
**♏ Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You will face some tough obstacles today, but being a Scorpio you will enjoy the challenge.  
**♐ Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Your options may be limited at the moment but that's no bad thing. Today's Sun-Saturn link will in some way remind you that a project need to be finished by Thursday at the latest.

**♑ Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will have to use up a lot of physical and mental energy to enjoy what is really quite a modest return. In which case, why bother?  
**♒ Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 There are two ways you can get what you want: you can go it alone or you can partner up with people who share your ambitions. It's a no-brainer really.  
**♓ Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. Keep your mind focused on a particular target. If you allow your attention to stray for even a few minutes it may take hours to get back in the groove again.

● SALLY BROMPTON

## Sudoku



## How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Friday's answer ►

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 |
| 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 |

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**Tuesday**

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